

Urban District Council of
Oswaldtwistle



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health




Including Details of Work done by the Sanitary
Inspector for the District of Oswaldtwistle, for
the year ended 31st December

1937

Also a Report of the Cleansing Services for the
Year April 1st, 1937, to March 31st, 1938.

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Health Committee

From April 1937, to April, 1938.

Councillor J. WARD, Chairman.

- „ N. BALL.
 - „ J. E. YATES.
 - „ J. HAWORTH.
 - „ A. TAYLOR.
 - „ D. PETERS.
 - „ W. F. METCALF, J.P., C.C.
 - „ J. W. HILL.
 - „ A. WILSON.
 - „ REV. J. DODD, B.A., J.P.
-

Meetings : Usually 1st Monday in the month, at 2-30 p.m.

Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

FRANK W. PARE, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London).

Sanitary Inspector	...	...	P. J. FISHER, A.M.I.S.E., Mem. R. San. I.
Clerk to the Health Department			E. ISHERWOOD.
Disinfectors	...	...	{ T. BRUDENELL. J. HITCHEN.
Caretakers of Smallpox Hospital			MR. & MRS. S. WRIGHT.
Foreman of Scavenging Department			R. WALMSLEY.
Caretaker of Slaughterhouses	...		J. PORTER
Steam Disinfector Operators	...		{ T. BRUDENELL. J. HITCHEN.
Motor Ambulance Drivers	...		{ R. PILLING. J. WARREN.

TOWN HALL,

OSWALDTWISTLE,

May, 1938.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District of Oswaldtwistle.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of Oswaldtwistle for the year ending December 31st, 1937. The Report has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1650 issued by the Ministry of Health, October, 1937.

The various rates in this report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1937.

The Birth Rate is lower, being 9·7 per 1,000, and shews a decrease of 1·9 on 1936, and still compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales (14·9 per 1,000).

Five deaths occurred in infants under one year giving Infantile Mortality Rate (40 per 1,000 live births) this is a decrease of 52 over the 1936 figure. Premature births, congenital debility and malformation were the principle causes of these deaths. These are causes which are non-preventable.

The Still Birth Rate, 67 per 1,000 (live and still births) is an increase of 42 per 1,000 on that of 1936.

The Death Rate (14·4) is slightly higher than last year and higher than the rate for the whole country which was 12·4.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is slightly higher and the Death Rate from Cancer shows an increase of 0·59 per 1,000 on 1936.

The Maternal Mortality rate is nil, which is a very satisfactory matter to report.

The estimated population of the area still shows a decline due to the excess of deaths over births and migration.

The report on the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal is discussed in Section C, the Housing Report in Section D, and in Section F, the report on the Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is also included in this Report.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk of the Health Department for their help during the year. The Sanitary Inspector has discharged his duties with energy and zeal. His work is deserving of the highest praise.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk to the Council, the Accountant, Surveyor, and other Officials for their assistance to me in the work of the Public Health Department.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK W. PARE,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

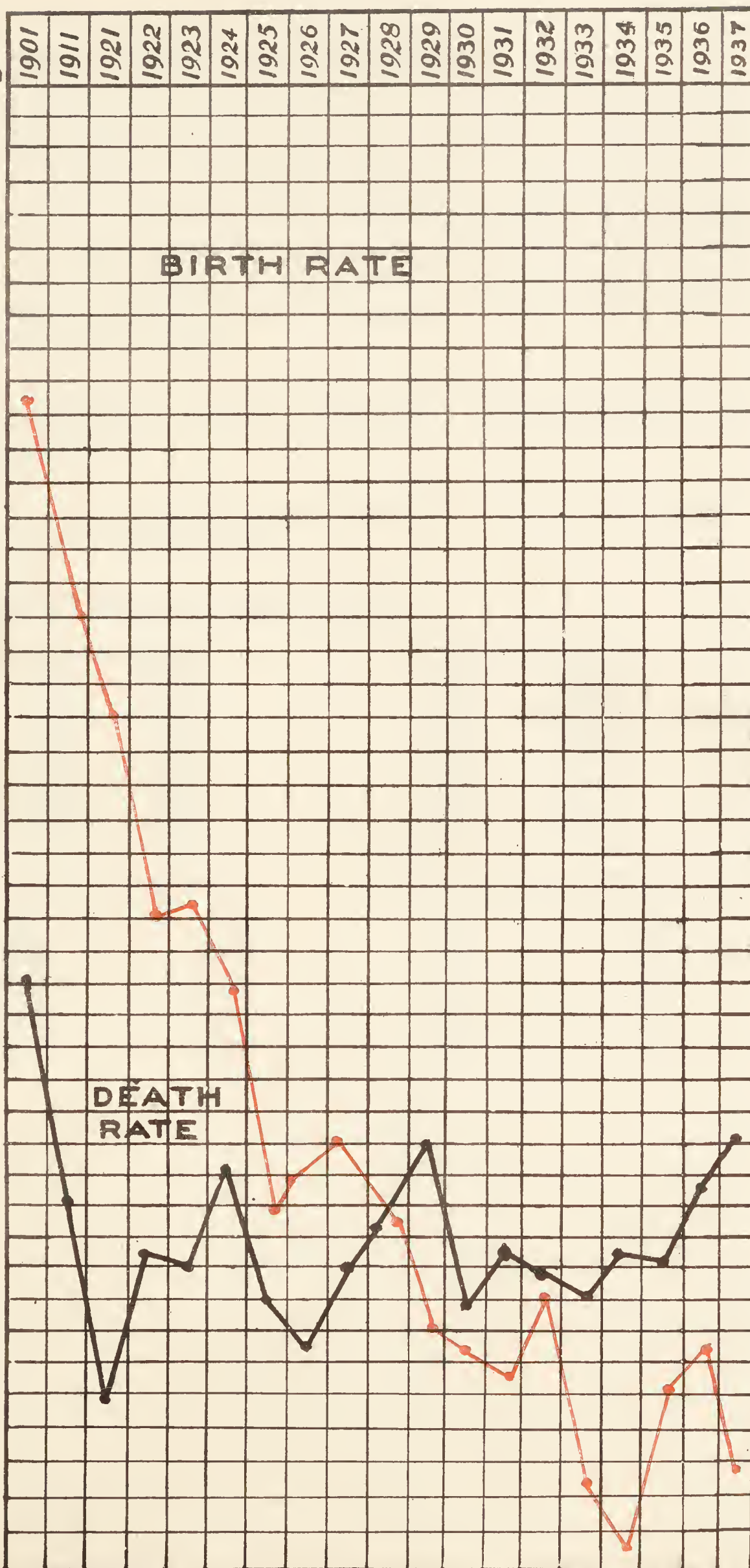
STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4,885
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	14,218
„ (Estimated middle 1937)	...	...	...	...	12,720
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Book at end of 1937)	...	...	...	...	3,993
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£60,756
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£226/0/0

Chart showing Birth Rate and Death Rate for years
1901- 1937 inclusive.

Rate per
1,000 of
population

30.5
30.
29.5
29.
28.5
28.
27.5
27.
26.5
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10.
9.5
9.
8.5



Social Conditions and Chief Industries in the Area.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the Township have changed considerably during the last few years. Formerly a number were employed in chemical works, coal mining and paper making, the two latter industries have entirely ceased in the district and practically the only occupation now is cotton spinning and weaving. Some of the male population find employment in the adjoining Township of Accrington in the textile machinery works, and a small number of the remainder are engaged in milk farming, slipper and cardboard roll making.

A large proportion of the female inhabitants are employed in the cotton industry. A large percentage of the insured population are unemployed.

No particular occupation has been noted to have any special influence on the public health.

The population according to the Census of—

1801 was 2710

1811 „ 3512

1821 „ 4960

1831 „ 5897

1841 „ 6643

1851 „ 7654

1861 „ 9246

1871 was 10282

1881 „ 12206

1891 „ 13296

1901 „ 14192

1911 „ 15714

1921 „ 15125

1931 „ 14221

Houses inhabited.

1891 ... 2753

1901 ... 3067

1911 ... 3554

1921 ... 3724

1931 ... 3859

Houses uninhabited.

1891 ... 516

1901 ... 297

1911 ... 94

1921 ... 40

1931 ... 47

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{	Legitimate	...	...	Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
		Illegitimate	...	...	119	70	49	
Still births	{	Total	...	...	5	2	3	Rate per 1,000 Total (live and stillbirths) Births
		...	...	...	124	72	52	
Deaths ...	{	...	...	...	9	5	4	Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
		...	...	...	184	95	89	

Deaths from	{	Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
		Other Puerperal Diseases	0	

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	40
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	42
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	0

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	25
Measles (all ages)...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	Nil

	PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.					Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death-rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 <i>Live</i> Births	Per 1,000 <i>Total</i> (Live and Still) Births		
Population 12,720								
<i>Mean of 5 years, 1932-1936</i>	10.8	12.8	0.46	1.60	Nil	Nil		56
<i>Year—1936</i>	11.6	13.5	0.53	1.37	Nil	Nil		92
<i>1937</i>	9.7	14.4	0.78	1.96	Nil	Nil		40
<i>Increase or decrease in 1937 on—</i>								
<i>5 years' average, 1932-1936....</i>	— 1.1	+ 1.6	+0.32	+0.36	Nil	Nil	—	16
<i>Previous year</i>	— 1.9	+ 0.9	+0.25	+0.59	Nil	Nil	—	52

Causes of Death during 1937.

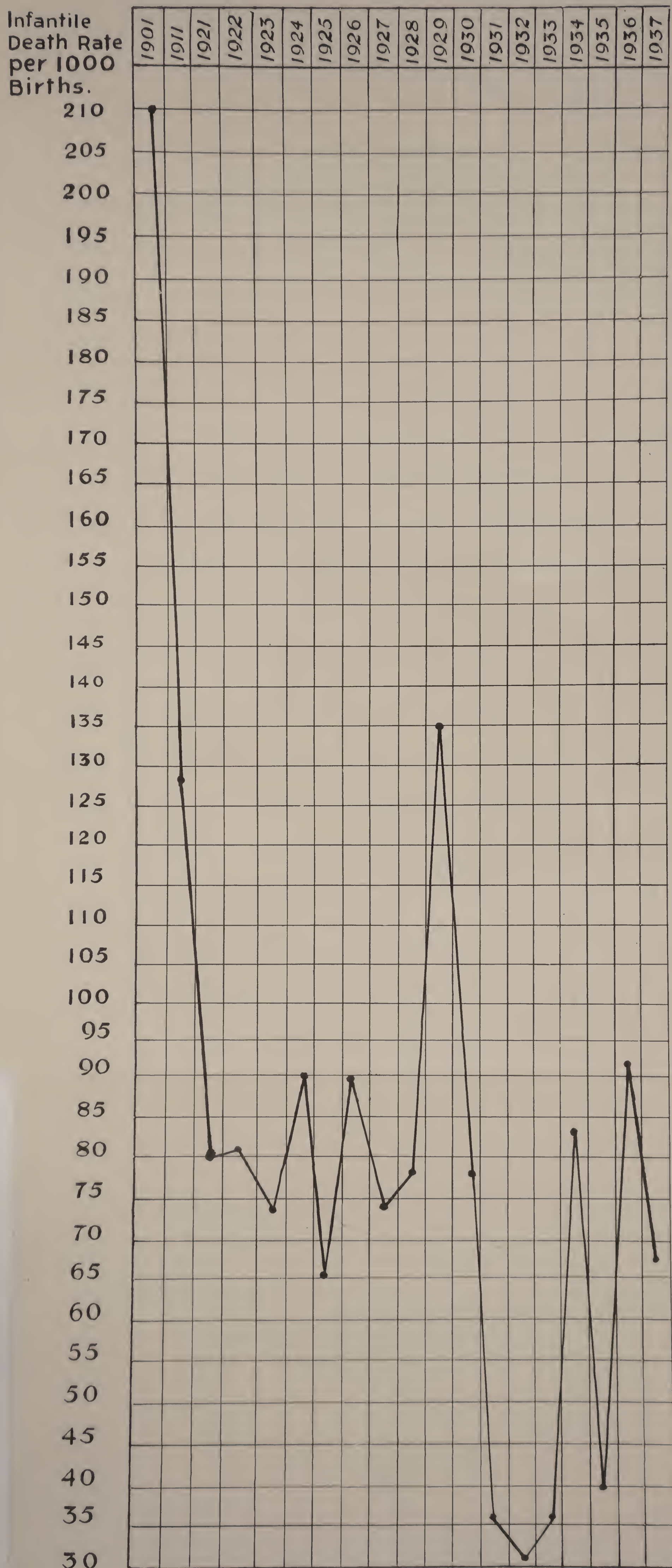
			Males.	Females.	Total.
	ALL CAUSES	... ..	95	89	184
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	0	0	0
2	Small Pox	... ..	0	0	0
3	Measles	... ..	0	0	0
4	Scarlet Fever	... ..	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough	... ..	0	0	0
6	Diphtheria	... ..	2	0	2
7	Influenza	... ..	8	7	15
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	... ..	0	0	0
9	Cerebro-spinal Fever	... ..	0	0	0
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System		7	3	10
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	0	0	0
12	Cancer	... ..	14	11	25
13	Syphilis	... ..	0	0	0
14	Diabetes	... ..	0	1	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	... ..	5	5	10
16	Heart Disease	... ..	20	24	44
17	Aneurysm	... ..	0	0	0
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	... ..	10	4	14
19	Bronchitis	... ..	2	3	5
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	... ..	2	4	6
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	... ..	2	0	2
22	Peptic Ulcer	... ..	3	0	3
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	... ..	0	0	0
24	Appendicitis	... ..	0	0	0
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	... ..	0	0	0
26	Other Diseases of the Liver	... ..	0	0	0
27	Other Digestive Diseases	... ..	1	5	6
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	... ..	4	8	12
29	Puerperal Sepsis	... ..	0	0	0
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	... ..	0	0	0
31	Congenital Debility and Malformation				
	—Premature Birth	... ..	2	0	2
32	Senility	... ..	2	2	4
33	Suicide	... ..	2	1	3
34	Other Deaths from Violence	... ..	3	3	6
35	Other defined Diseases	... ..	6	8	14
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	... ..	0	0	0
37	General Paralysis of the Insane—				
	tabes dorsalis	... ..	0	0	0
38	Diarrhoea (over 2 years)	... ..	0	0	0
Total			2	3	5
Deaths of Infants					
	Illegitimate	...	0	0	0
under 1 year	Legitimate	...	2	3	5

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.

	Rate per 1000 total population		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births	Still-Births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One year.	
England and Wales	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58	
125 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62	
148 Smaller Towns (estimated) Resident Populations, at Census 1931, 25,000 to 50,000)	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55	
London	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60	
Oswaldtwistle	9.7	0.71	14.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.17	0.46	0.00	40	

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :—			Puerperal			Total	
			Sepsis			Others	
			{ per 1,000 Live Births			2.26	
			{ per 1,000 Total Births			2.17	
Oswaldtwistle			Nil			Nil	
						3.23	
						3.11	
						Nil	

Diagram Showing the infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births during the years 1901-1937 inclusive.



SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Frank W. Pare, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Part time Officer. Salary contributed to.

Sanitary Inspector, P.J. Fisher, Mem. R. San. I., A.M.I.S.E.
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods: Certified
in advanced knowledge in the carrying out of an
Inspector's duties. Whole time Officer. Salary
contributed to.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and at the Virol Research Laboratory, with the exception of sputum examinations for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington.

"Swabs" from suspected throats are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the result telegraphed to the doctor in charge of the case.

No. of specimens examined in 1937 :—

Throat swabs	...	...	46
Sputum	...	...	32
Water	...	...	15

Regarding the Sputem specimens, 27 were negative and 5 positive.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases—Motor Ambulance	...	} Both owned by the Council.
(b) For non-infectious cases—Motor Ambulance		

The Ambulance facilities are considered adequate.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—Carried out by 2 District Nurses under the District Nursing Association. Midwifery is not undertaken by the Association.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The nursing of such cases as measles, pneumonia, puerperal sepsis, and ophthalmia neonatorum, is carried out by the District Nurses. The Council subscribe to the Association.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

	Situation	Accommodation	By whom provided	
Chief Centre	Barnfield, Union Road, Oswaltdwistle	Ample	Owned by the County Council	Meeting and Consultations every Tuesday Afternoon. L.H.V. also attends daily during the week to inter- view mothers & give advice.

OTHER CLINICS.

Day Nurseries		None		
School Clinics	Barnfield, Oswaltdwistle	Eye, Ear and Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics	County Council	
Tuberculosis	Accrington Tuber- culosis Dispensary		County Council	
Venereal Diseases	Blackburn Royal Infirmary	At the Out-patients' Department	County Council	Twice a week for males and twice a week for females.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Rishton		County Council	

Hospitals.

- (1) Tuberculosis ... Provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity ... }
 (3) Children ... } None.
- (4) Fever ... { Cases are sent to Blackburn and Darwen Fever Hospitals when difficulty in isolating at home arises, it is sometimes necessary, when the above hospitals are full to send cases to Burnley or Bury.
- (5) Smallpox ... Elm Tree Hospital, Oswaldtwistle, owned by the Council. 62 beds now available.
- (6) Other Hospitals available for the District :—
 Blackburn Royal Infirmary.
 Accrington Victoria Hospital.
 Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.
 Manchester Royal Infirmary.
 Manchester Eye Hospital.
 Blackburn Municipal Maternity Home.
 Accrington Municipal Maternity Home.

The Hospitals in Sec. 6 are outside the district. The Council subscribe to the two Manchester Hospitals.

Midwives.

There are two midwives on the Register residing in the Township and two or three others from neighbouring districts also do a certain amount of work in the area. No midwives are employed or subsidised by this Health Authority.

Three midwives are practising in the Township. This I consider adequate. There are no Nursing Homes in the Township.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children : No special provision.

The Public Assistance Institution is situated in the County Borough of Blackburn.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Township is supplied with water from the Council's own Waterworks. The water has no plumbo-solvent action. The bacteriological reports of samples taken during the year are satisfactory. The samples are obtained quarterly.

Last year the Ministry of Health approved the acquisition by the Council of Town Bent Pit, this should considerably augment the water supply and act as a reserve in the event of a future drought.

As previously mentioned in my report for last year, the water shows excessive hardness and certain other mineral properties, but when this water is mixed with the Moorland water, these features will be materially neutralised. The pump when finally fixed, will be capable of raising about 25,000 gallons per hour.

The water supply available for Belthorn is still insufficient to meet all requirements, particularly as regards closet conversion.

During the year the Council considered the provision of a water supply for the Cross Edge, Newthorn and Gaulkthorn district, which is at present supplied from springs and wells, which are liable to contamination. A meeting was held of the owners of the property which was well attended and they were unanimously of the opinion that a piped supply should be provided and laid on to each house. Your Water Engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme for your consideration.

The rainfall during the year is given in detail as follows :—

Rainfall from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1937.

	Inches.		Inches.
January	... 3·80	August	... 2·95
February	... 4·95	September	... 1·76
March	... 1·97	October	... 2·50
April ...	... 3·46	November	... 2·16
May ...	... 1·95	December	... 3·74
June ...	... 2·53		—
July ...	... 2·01		33·78

The greatest rainfall in a month since January, 1882, was 11·85 inches in December, 1911, and the lowest 0·15 inches in June, 1925.

Water Samples.

Fifteen samples of water were examined at the Broughton Laboratories. The result of these examinations are fairly satisfactory. The Bacteriological reports of the samples still vary from time to time. There is a great improvement in the quality, due to the acquisition of the "gathering" grounds.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Progress still continues to be made in the sewerage of the district with sanitary glazed pipes with cemented joints and ventilating manholes, and every year a number of house drains are overhauled in converting conservancy type closets to the water closet system. In the case of new property the drains are all examined by the Surveyor before being filled in, strict attention being paid to the joints and the fall of the pipes. The drainage of existing buildings is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

In the main road many of the disused overhead wire standards have been connected with the sewers and used for ventilation.

The sewage is dealt with at the Council's outfall works in open septic tanks, and then passed through 9-ft. deep revolving sprinkler filters, six in all, the final treatment being upon the land filter areas.

The village of Belthorn has a separate sewage disposal works on the same principle, and Knuzden sewage is dealt with by Blackburn County Borough.

The districts of Cross Edge, and Duckworth Hall are still without a proper drainage system.

Rivers and Streams.

The chief pollution of the streams consists of the depositing of dead poultry and "droppings" therein. Notices are served on those responsible when they are found.

Closet Accommodation.

In past years the closets were almost entirely of the privy type or the waste water flushing system. The policy now is to convert as quickly as the water supply will permit, the older types to the fresh water system and with this end in view the Council received sanction from the Ministry of Health in 1923 to borrow £2,650 to carry out this work. The conversions are gradually being made and the Council contribute £4 10s. 0d. towards the conversion of a pail closet, and £4 10s. 0d. and a dust bin in the case of a privy closet and midden.

In the case of new property fresh water closets are insisted upon where a sewer is available, and pail closets where not.

Full particulars of closet conversions, etc., will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Public Cleansing.

This subject is dealt with, very fully in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Shops Act, 1934.

Forty-seven shops were inspected under the above Act. There were no contraventions as regards ventilation and temperature, but there were three instances of insufficient sanitary accommodation. These have since received attention.

Smoke Abatement.

The time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke amended in 1929, is 1 boiler 4 minutes, 2 boilers 5 minutes, 3 boilers 6 minutes, 4 boilers 7 minutes per hour. There is no serious nuisance arising from the emission of black smoke. Two observations were made, and a representation was made in one instance which resulted in an improvement.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There was no evidence of infestation in the Council houses of the bed bug during the year. Such houses are inspected twice yearly and representations made in the event of any uncleanly premises. One tenant was requested to quit by reason of being undesirable.

Three other houses were found to be infested. The methods being that the beds are disinfested by steam, and the floors and walls of the rooms sprayed with "Zaldecide," following which "Furmex" fumigating lamps are used.

The results are fairly effective, but it necessitates constant attention by the tenants.

It has not, up to the present, been considered necessary to disinfest the belongings of new tenants to Council Houses, but the Council have decided to employ a contractor to remove and disinfest belongings of persons from Clearance Areas.

There does not appear to be any necessity for any supervision methods to be adopted, as the tenants so far appear to be only too glad to notify the Health Department that their premises are infested.

In the case of dirty houses, which are discovered during housing inspections and from "information received," those are sternly requested to cleanse their premises and to pay for any materials which might be used.

Schools.

The 12 Schools have been inspected from time to time.

At Saint Michael's School, Belthorn, the pail closets should be converted to the fresh water carriage system as a sewer was constructed some years ago for this purpose.

With the exception of the new schools they are all provided with waste water closets.

This type of fitting, in my opinion, should not be entertained at an Education Centre.

The water supply to all schools in the area is satisfactory.

Routine inspection of school children is carried out by the School Medical Officer of Health, and when necessary by the District Medical Officer of Health. The School M.O.H. and District M.O.H. co-operate with regard to school closure in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school.

SECTION D.

During 1935 the Ministry of Health confirmed Clearance Orders respecting seven areas. The Council have commenced building 48 houses required for accommodating the dispossessed people as the demolitions proceed.

Housing Statistics for the year 1937.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) ...	32
(1) By Local Authority	0
(2) By other Local Authorities	0
(3) By other persons	32

(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts	0			
Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme	0

I.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection.

1	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	1197			
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	2190			
2	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	39
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	117		
3		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	8
4		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	179

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers (including those brought forward from previous years)	556
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.	<i>Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</i>						
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	20
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—					
		(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	13
		(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...				0
B.	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts.</i>						
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	76

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	...	60
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...					0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	0

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

IV.—Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	22
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	22
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	136½
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	None
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	22
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	163

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk produced within or brought into the Township is on the whole of good quality. The milk is delivered from house to house in kits and bottles, but dairies are now more in evidence than in the past.

All cowkeepers and dairymen and their premises are registered and steady progress is being made in bringing the cowsheds up to modern standards. By arrangement with the County Council, periodical samples of milk are taken at the schools for bacteriological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 :—

No. of dealers' licences issued during 1937, in respect of :—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	None.
Accredited Milk	...	...	...	...	Three.

No. of licences issued in respect of " Pasteurised " milk :—

Pasteuring Plants (low temperature)	...	One.
Retail distributors	...	Eleven.

Dairies, cowsheds and milk shops are inspected every six months. There is a gradual improvement among the Cowkeepers, as regards methods of clean milk production and a desire for improvement in the cowsheds.

The amount of air space required for each cow in a cowshed is 600 cubic feet when habitually grazed, and 800 cubic feet when not habitually grazed.

Total No. of cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	78
No. on the Register	...	...	...	...	78
No. of Inspections during year	...	...	...	...	179
No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)	...	...	...	...	35
No. of dairymen or milk purveyors on the Register	...	...	...	...	103
Dairy farms 78. Approximate number of cows in the district	...	...	...	...	981

During the year, two dairy farms were removed from the register, on account of the farms be acquired by the Council to augment the gathering grounds at the Waterworks.

The Veterinary inspection of dairy cows is carried out by the County Council.

(b) **Meat.**

The arrangements for the inspection of meat are as follows :—

Private slaughter houses : written notice of intended slaughter is given.

Public slaughterhouses : no such notice is given as slaughtering is carried out at regular times except in emergency, and the premises are visited at slaughtering times.

No marking of carcasses is practiced and diseased meat is disposed of by cremation at the Council's Gasworks.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	403	317	7	3224	205
Number inspected	403	317	7	3224	205
All diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcasses condemned	—	1	—	2	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	1	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	·0025	·63	—	·062	·01
Tuberculosis only :— Whole carcasses condemned	—	8	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	4	13	—	—	4
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis	1·0	6·6	—	—	1·95

All butchers' shops and food stores are visited and inspected regularly in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There are five slaughterhouses at the public abattoirs and the district also contains two registered private slaughterhouses.

24 beasts, 6 calves, 100 sheep and 24 pigs can be laired in the Council's abattoirs.

(c) Other Foods.

Bakehouses, 30 in number, and other premises where foods are manufactured, stored or exposed for sale have been inspected from time to time and their condition found satisfactory. No legal proceedings were necessary nor was any instance found in which existing powers were inadequate for dealing with any defects.

No case of food poisoning came under notice.

(d) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

The undermentioned samples were purchased in Oswaldtwistle, during the year and were analysed by the Public Analyst.

By Constabulary :—

Salt	...	...	1	Ground Almonds	...	1
Cheese	...	...	1	Butter	...	1
Milk (Samples)	...	...	7	Jam	...	1
Dripping	...	...	1	Corned Beef	...	1

All these samples were found to be genuine.

I am indebted to the Superintendent, Church Police, for these figures.

(e) Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

Public Health (Condensed Milk) Reg., 1923-7.

Public Health (Dried Milk) Reg., 1923-7.

Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Reg., 1925-7.

The above are administered by the County Council.

(f) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

During the year 28 samples of milk were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Six were positive. The necessary action was then taken by the Lancashire County Council.

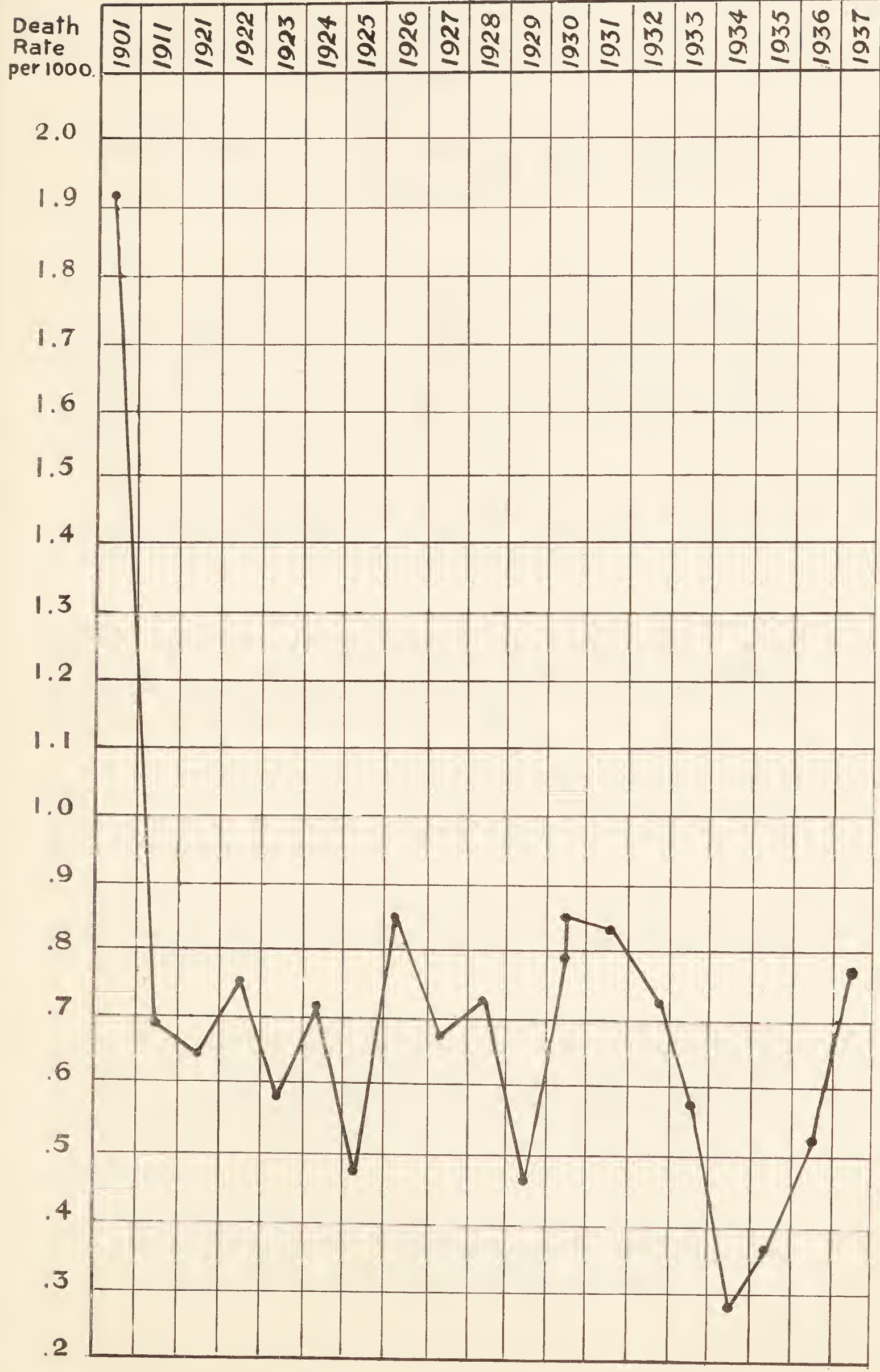
(g) Nutrition.

Lectures are given to mothers at the Child Welfare Centre under the auspices of the County Council.

(h) Shell-fish (Molluscan).

No action was called for respecting the above, as only a small quantity are consumed within the district.

The following Diagram Shows the Annual Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the years 1901- 1937 inclusive.



SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General.

There was a decrease in the incidence of scarlet fever during the year. The number of cases of diphtheria notified also showed a decrease. There has been no marked prevalence of other notifiable infectious diseases. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission of severe cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria to Isolation Hospitals. This difficulty will be removed when the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital scheme comes into being.

The Hospital treatment of uncomplicated cases of infectious disease has been discontinued, especially scarlet fever. The results of home nursing and supervision are satisfactory.

No action has been taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria. In my opinion the adoption of an active immunisation campaign of the pre-school and school child against diphtheria would lessen the incidence and mortality rate of this disease. I do particularly stress this point.

On the notification of a case of Infectious Disease a visit is paid to the patient's home by the Sanitary Inspector, to ascertain the suitability of the premises for isolating the case, and the ability of the relatives to nurse it.

Printed instructions are left, school children excluded from school, and on the termination of the disease, the premises, bedding, etc., are disinfected.

Weekly reports are received from the School Attendance Officer giving the number of absences from school and the illness causing the absence. These reports are of use in ascertaining whether any infectious cases have not been notified previously and in detecting outbreaks of infectious diseases in any particular school.

Scarlet Fever.

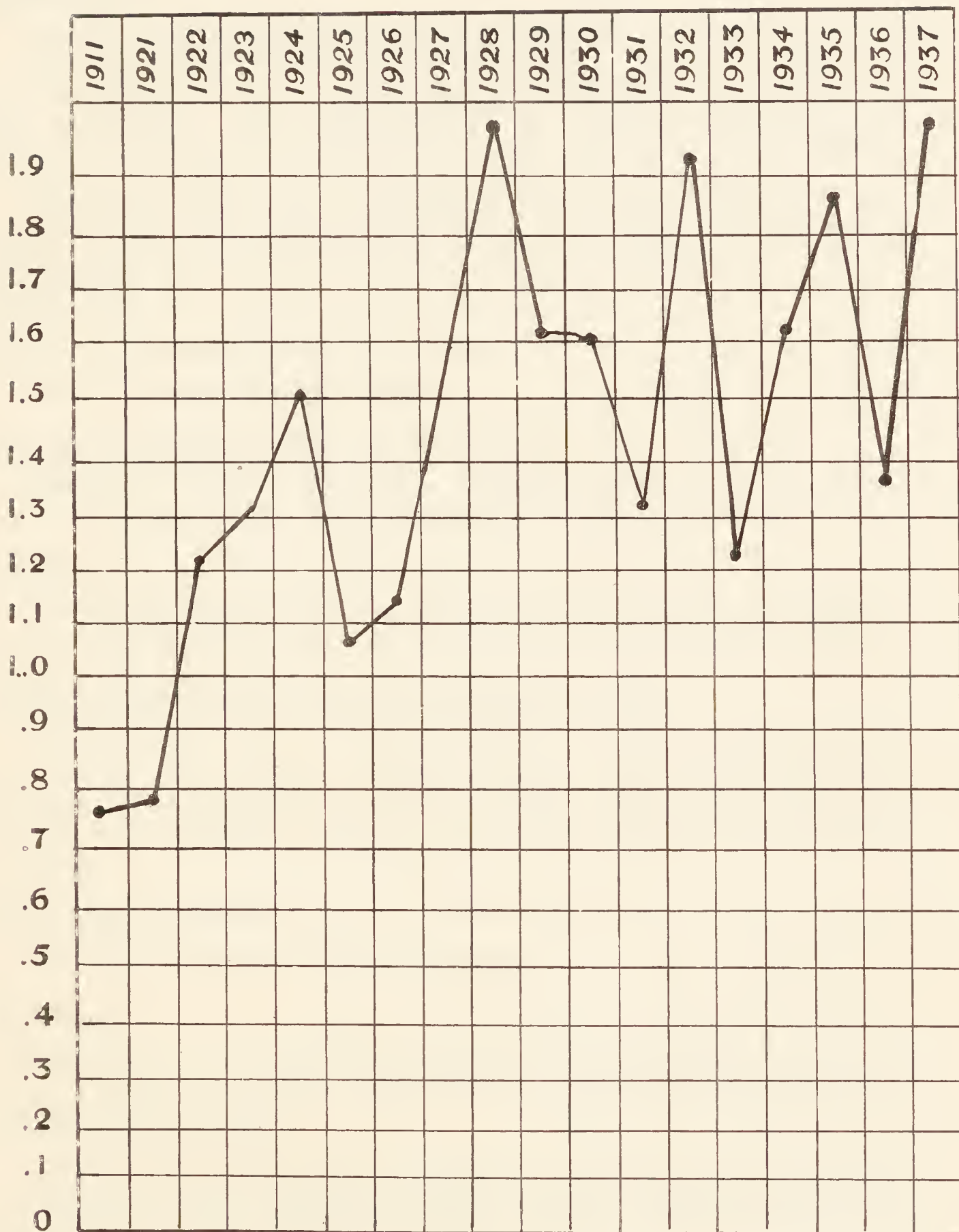
During 1937, twelve cases of scarlet fever were notified as against thirty-five last year. The disease was of a mild type and no deaths occurred. Three cases were removed to Hospital.

SECTION F.
Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.															Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to this district
Disease	Total cases notified	Under										Total deaths	Cases ad- mitted to Hospital		
		1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years				45-65 years	65 and over
Small-pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	16	0	2	0	1	1	7	2	2	1	0	0	14	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	12	0	1	2	0	1	5	2	0	1	0	0	3	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	24	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	7	?	?	?
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Malaria...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary (M. 8) Tuberculosis (F. 1)	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	0	5	1
Non-Pulmon'y (M. 0) Tuberculosis (F. 1)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals ...	64	2	3	4	1	2	12	4	5	7	9	9	6	23	3

I have not observed any special incidence of notifiable diseases due to overcrowding.

DEATH RATE FROM CANCER DURING YEARS 1911-1937



CANCER

There was a regrettable increase of 7 deaths from cancer, during the year.

The Dick Test and active immunisation have not been employed by the Health Department. The majority of the cases occurred in the age period 5—15 years.

Diphtheria.

Sixteen cases were notified with two deaths.

The Schick test or active immunisation methods have not been employed. The administration of Prophylactic doses of Anti-toxin to immediate contacts is recommended to practitioners.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied gratis when necessary. A supply is kept at the Town Hall and a serum syringe is kept ready and lent out on request. 86,000 units of anti-toxin were issued during 1937.

Enteric (including Paratyphoid) Fever.

No cases were notified in 1937.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc.

There was no marked incidence of these diseases during the year but with the exception of a mild outbreak of measles.

Small-pox.

No cases of Small-pox occurred during the year and no action was necessary under the Small-Pox Prevention Regulations 1917.

Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1927.

Twenty-four cases of acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia were notified. There were six deaths which give a mortality rate of 25 per 100 cases notified. Pneumonia cases are nursed by the District Nurses. No cases of malaria or dysentery occurred.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action necessary during the year.

Disinfection.

Bedding, etc., is disinfected in the Steam Disinfector situated at the Council's Gasworks, and rooms are sprayed with Chloros and afterwards fumigated.

Schools are notified where children of school age are affected or in contact with infectious disease, and the school premises are sprayed and fumigated as occasion may require.

Library books from infected houses are disinfected and the Librarian notified.

We have no station for the cleansing and disinfestation of verminous persons, but when required arrangements are made to have the use of Accrington Corporation Depot. No action was called for during the year.

Cancer.

There was a regrettable increase of 7 deaths from Cancer, during the year.

Tuberculosis.

On Form A. Primary Notifications	...	...	...	10
„ B. „ „ Schools	...	...	...	0
„ I. Admission to Sanatorium or Hospital	...	...	...	5
„ II. Discharged from Sanatorium or Hospital	...	...	...	7

The notification of tuberculosis in the district during the year was satisfactory. All registered deaths from tuberculosis were notified previously.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age periods years	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-25	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
25-35	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
35-45	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
45-55	3	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
55-65	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
65 & upwds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	1	0	1	5	4	0	0
Totals	9		1		9		0	

Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930.

No. of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the notification register on 31st December, 1937 :—

Total Cases	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
32	9	8	17	6	9	15

The total number of cases on the register at the end of 1937 was: Pulmonary, 17; Non-Pulmonary, 15. The above table shows a decrease of five Pulmonary on the previous year.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been called for under the above regulations which concerns tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The whole of this work together with the Welfare Centre were taken over by the County Council on April 1st, 1928.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1936.

1. Conversion of large number of ashpits to dustbin system.
2. Improvement of Refuse Collection Service from fortnightly to weekly.
3. Reconditioning of dwelling houses.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Extension of sewer to Cross Edge, Newthorn and Duckworth Hall.
2. Extension of water supply to Cross Edge, Newthorn and Redwalls district.
3. Completion of Ashpit Conversion Scheme.
4. Conversion of Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets.

APPENDIX.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces & Homework

I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	5	0	0
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	73	0	0
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	3	0	0
Total	81	0	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Num- ber of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Refer- red to H.M. Ins- pector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	11	11	—	—
Want of ventilation	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisance	4	4	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {insufficient	1	—	—	—
{unsuitable or defective	5	3	—	—
{not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ... (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork or offences under the Sections mentioned in Schedule to Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).	2	2	—	—
Total	25	21	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

3.—HOME WORK.

There are no Out-workers.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 31) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Painters	6
Pickle Manufacturers	1
Bakehouses... ..	30
Boot and Clog Makers	12
Dressmakers and Milliners and Garment Makers	7
Joiners	5
Plumbers	3
Wheelwrights	1
Tailoring	2
Smiths	1
Coopers	1
Firelight Manufacturers	2
Gas Fitting... ..	1
Metal Brokers	2
Garages	3
Cycle Repairers	1
Petrol Station	3
Skin Curier and Rug Maker	1
Scene Painter	1
Fat and Tallow Dealer	1
Wireless Dealers	2
Total number of Workshops on Register	86

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
TOWN HALL,
OSWALDTWISTLE,

MAY 1ST, 1938.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Urban District Council of Oswaldtwistle.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Department for the year ending December 31st, 1937, also for the Cleansing Department for the year ending March 31st, 1938.

During the year 2190 dwelling-houses were inspected to ascertain whether the same were in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, and 177 were found not to be in all respects so fit. The number of dwelling-houses rendered fit was 556.

The general repair to dwelling-houses is a very important social service and is greatly appreciated by the occupiers generally, rendering their lives more tolerable during these present depressed times.

Overcrowding.

The question of overcrowding is not serious in our district. it is interesting to observe that in the first survey, 44 cases of overcrowding were discovered. A later survey was made, when this figure was reduced to 22. This was brought about by means of families removing, the marriage of the older children and by overcrowded families themselves, removing to larger houses. A further survey was made and it is now found that there are only 10 cases. These show signs of being reduced if not altogether removed during the year.

Clearance Areas.

During the present year the Council have erected the necessary houses to accommodate the displaced families from the Clearance Areas. With this problem dealt with, it will enable the Council to deal rapidly with the individual unfit houses and the few remaining back-to-back houses.

Refuse Receptacles.

It is pleasing to report that good progress was made during the past year in the conversion of the ashpits to that of the dustbin system. 680 were so converted.

**WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,
1875 & 1936, AND HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

Nuisances.

During the year 130 nuisances have been abated, which have necessitated the following :—

Service of informal notices...	...	...	...	248
Service of statutory notices	...	...	...	96
Interviews	...	...	...	133
Inspections	...	...	...	1197
Re-inspections	...	...	...	2307
Total Inspections...	...	...	...	3504

Classification of Nuisances remedied under the Public Health Acts.

Ashpits made sufficient	...	...	...	273
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	237
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	1
Closets made sufficient	...	...	...	53
Drains made sufficient	...	...	...	79
Dust bins provided	...	...	...	326
Dustbins renewed	...	...	...	151
Yard surfaces repaired or re-laid	...	...	...	17
Water supply improved	...	...	...	12
Other nuisances	...	...	...	8

Classification of Defects remedied under Housing Acts.

Ceilings plastered	...	...	...	22
Ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	7
Dampness removed	...	...	...	5
Downspouts renewed or repaired	...	...	...	54
Doors and frames renewed or repaired	...	...	...	18
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired...	...	...	...	56
Fire ranges renewed or repaired	...	...	...	14
Floors repaired	...	...	...	38
Handrails provided	...	...	...	12
Roofs made watertight	...	...	...	33
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	2

Classification of Defects remedied under Housing Acts.—*cont.*

Sinks repaired or provided...	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired	...	...	...	22
Walls plastered	...	...	...	30
Walls cleansed	...	...	...	8
Windows repaired	...	...	...	96
Washboilers repaired or provided	...	...	...	4
Other defects...	...	...	...	7
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	4
Obstructive buildings removed	...	...	...	4
Back-to-back houses made into through houses				2

Closet Accommodation at end of 1937.

No. of pail closets	...	...	...	236
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	200
No. of movable ashbins for refuse...	...	...	...	3433
No. of fresh water closets	...	...	...	1108
No. of waste water closets	...	...	...	2401

Conversions :—

		<i>During the year 1937</i>	<i>During the five years 1932-36</i>
No. of privy closets :—			
To fresh water closets	...	0	5
To waste water closets	...	0	0
To pails, etc....	... ..	0	11
No. of pail closets :—			
To fresh water closets	...	7	62
To waste water closets	...	0	0
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	... ..	12	22
No. of houses at which mov- able ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	... ..	680	762

Infectious Diseases.

The Medical Officer of Health has elsewhere given statistics and tables relating thereto. Each case has been visited and disinfectants supplied gratis, together with printed instructions regarding home nursing and preventive measures.

At the termination of the disease, when the patient is nursed at home, and on receipt of notice to that effect from the doctor attending the case, the infected bedding is disinfected in our steam disinfector, the infected room sprayed with “ Chloros ” and afterwards fumigated ; the bedding being returned dry, disinfected and fit for immediate use.

Where the patient is removed to hospital, the above method of disinfection is carried out immediately after the removal has taken place.

Head teachers are notified where children of school age are either affected or in contact with infectious disease, and schools are also sprayed and fumigated from time to time, as occasion may require. Library books from infected houses are fumigated, and afterwards returned to the Public Library, the Librarian also being notified.

I am obliged to the School Attendance Officer for his co-operation for notifying suspicious cases of illness amongst school children which in some cases have actually been notifiable infectious diseases.

Disinfection.

The following disinfections have been carried out during the year :

No. of houses sprayed and fumigated	...	...	50
No. of articles disinfected (steam)...	...	...	501

CAUSES FOR DISINFECTION OF ARTICLES BY
STEAM DISINFECTOR.

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	145
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	54
Other causes (death, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	69
For Church U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	...	52
For Accrington Corporation	...	...	...	...	...	93
						501

Our Steam Disinfector is a benefit to the Township as will be observed by the number of articles which have been disinfected during the year. The Church Urban District Council continue to use the apparatus as in previous years.

LIST OF ARTICLES DISINFECTED.

Beds	...	...	108	Other articles	...	377
Bedding	...	...	2	Clothing	...	2
				Mattresses	...	12
						<hr/> 501

ARTICLES DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REQUEST FROM OWNERS.

Beds 27. Mattresses 30. Other Articles 22.

Bakehouses.

The 30 Bakehouses within the Township have been inspected and were found to be in a clean and sanitary condition.

Slaughterhouses.

There are seven Slaughterhouses within the District, two Registered and five at the Public Abattoirs.

Public Abattoirs.

24 beasts, 6 calves, 100 sheep and 24 pigs can be laired. During the year the following animals were slaughtered at the Council's Abattoirs :—

Beasts	...	...	720	Pigs	...	205
Sheep and Lambs	...	3224		Goats	...	—
Calves	...	...	7			
						<hr/> 4156

An increase of 746 animals, being 12 per cent.

The Slaughterhouses are kept in a clean condition ; an employee of the Council residing at the Abattoirs, and the process of killing is kept under observation and the carcasses inspected by your Sanitary Inspector.

The Council's annual charges for the use of the Abattoirs are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
One Occupier with sole use of Slaughterhouse	...	20	0 0
Two Occupiers	...	25	0 0
Three Occupiers	...	27	10 0

The rent includes the free use of gas, water (hot and cold) and the use of pens and lairs. Casual slaughtering is charged for at the rate of 1/6 per beast and 6d. per small animal. All swine, even when slaughtered by tenants, are charged as "casuals," and charged 1/6 for the first and 1/- for each subsequent animal.

Humane Slaughtering.

The Council's Byelaws relating to humane slaughtering which have been in operation since 1928, were repealed by the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The Act, so far as this district is concerned, has not caused any change except for the licensing of all slaughtermen.

The instrument chosen by the Council as being the most humane is the "Cash Captive Bolt Pistol," which is really a form of mechanical pole-axe, actuated by means of a small explosive cartridge, no bullet whatever is used.

In no case has the use of the pistol had any injurious effect upon the meat.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The above Order regulates all Dairies and Cowsheds, and we have 78 Cowkeepers and 35 Dairymen registered. There were 179 visits paid to these premises. With four exceptions the whole of the milk sold is produced in the district.

Improvements have been carried out at seven farms, mainly reconstruction work, the increase of air space, amount of lighting and ventilation, and improvements in paving and drainage work, and the provision of proper dairies, electric light and power sterilizers, refrigerators and water supply.

The approximate expenditure involved in the alterations of the seven farms in question cost the owners the sum of £1,000,

It is pleasing to report that there is an increased desire on the part of the cowkeepers to improve their premises.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.

At present we have three farmers or dairymen producing Accredited milk in the district and the following retailers:—

Accredited 3.

Pasteurized 11.

The North-East Lancashire Co-operative Dairy at Blackburn Road, Oswaldtwistle, carries out the pasteurization of milk under the latest and most hygienic methods.

They supply a considerable part of the population of Accrington, Blackburn, Church, Darwen and Oswaldtwistle. I have frequent opportunities of inspecting the premises and examining the Bacteriologist's Report, and on every occasion this complies with the requirements of the Milk Special Designations Order, 1936.

There is no Tuberculin Tested Milk sold in the district.

Inspection of Food.

Regular inspection is made of places where food is prepared. The general cleanliness of these places is very good, and every facility is given to me at the time of inspection. As far as practicable attention is given to the perishable foodstuffs which are retailed within the District.

Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs have been destroyed during the year as unfit for human consumption :—

	1937 lbs.
(a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts	7662
(b) Diseased, unsound or unwholesome (other than above)... ..	962
	<hr/> 8624

1925—860½ lbs.	1926—3375 lbs.	1927—3943 lbs.
1928—3644 lbs.	1929—1758 lbs.	1930—1252½ lbs.
1931—1013 lbs.	1932—1827 lbs.	1933—2666 lbs.
1934—3462 lbs.	1935—3306 lbs.	1936—5112 lbs.

The whole of the unsound food disposed of was surrendered upon request. Condemned meat, etc., is disposed of by cremation at the Council's Gasworks. I am indebted to Mr. Colvin, your Gas Engineer, for making it possible to entirely destroy all the diseased meat by such a satisfactory method as cremation. I have never been satisfied in the past with the method of forwarding diseased meat to "recovery" factories where the ultimate destination or use has been uncertain.

Petroleum Acts.

27 licences were granted or renewed under these Acts.

There were no infringements observed.

Offensive Trades.

The following trades are controlled by our Bye-laws with respect to offensive trades :—Blood boiler, blood drier, bone boiler, fell-monger, tanner, leather dresser, soap boiler, tallow melter, fat melter, fat extractor, tripe boiler, glue maker, size maker, gut scraper, dealer in rags and bones, fish fryer.

There are in the Township 17 fish fryers, 3 tripe boilers and 3 marine stores. These businesses are inspected from time to time during the year, and on the whole are kept in a clean and sanitary condition ; 23 visits were paid to these premises.

Factories, Workshops, etc.

86 workshops are now on the register, and their classification will be found in the report of the Medical Officer.

81 visits have been made to these places during the year. The majority were found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition and 25 were dealt with on account of infringements.

Smoke Abatement.

Two observations were made of factory chimneys for the purposes of the Public Health Smoke Abatement Act, 1926.

Our standard is as follows :—

4	minutes	per	hour	per	one	boiler.
5	„	„	„	„	two	boilers.
6	„	„	„	„	three	boilers.
7	„	„	„	„	four or more	boilers.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Used for human habitation. During the year one inspection was made of these premises.

Motor Ambulance.

The Motor Ambulance continues to serve the public and has proved of real use.

The Ambulance removed 401 persons during the year as against 426 last year, a decrease of 25 cases.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year numerous complaints were made by the occupiers of dwelling-houses of the presence of rats. Prompt measures were taken to destroy the vermin and to render the premises rat proof by reconstruction of the drainage and stopping up of the “runs.” It is well known that rats frequent the banks of the streams which run through the urban portion of the district. It was therefore necessary to ascertain where the “runs” were, and about 14 pounds of red squill “baits” were laid and which were consumed. This type of bait is recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture as being harmless to other animals.

Shops Act, 1934.

Under the above Act the Council have had certain duties assigned to them regarding heating and ventilation of shops and the provision of sanitary accommodation. This brings the shops to some extent on a par with workshops.

The shops in the district comply with the requirements of the Act. During the current year the Lancashire County Council requested the County districts to administer the provisions of the Act, which ordinarily come within the jurisdiction of the County Council, dealing with the employment of young persons between the ages 16 and 18, half holidays, and facilities for the taking of meals, etc.

Cleansing Dept., Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.

The Street Cleansing and House Refuse Collection Report covers the financial year, namely, from April 1st, 1937, to March 31st, 1938. With the exception of Belthorn, the whole of the cleansing, both refuse collection and disposal, is carried out by the Council, under my supervision through the Cleansing Department ; the work at Belthorn is by contract and is carried out in a satisfactory manner at a cost of £60 per annum.

The Township has been divided into areas for the purpose of refuse collection, and the work is carried out systematically, very few complaints being received, a daily check being made as to when the receptacle was last cleansed.

Storage of Refuse.

The Council's desires are being met in the conversion of the open ashpit system to that of the movable dust bin ; it will be seen that this will contribute to a lighter and drier refuse and consequently less offensive and approximately 680 were so converted during the year.

It is regrettable that the householders of the district do not exercise more care in the amount of refuse made. At present about one-third consists of paper and other combustible matter which could easily be destroyed in the firegrate, instead of adding to the cost of removal, and, incidently, affecting the rates.

During the present year, owners of property will be requested to convert their former ashpits, so as to form storage sheds for the dustbin, and at the same time to provide means of ready access for the purpose of dustbin collection, by the provision of doors in the back streets, furnished with a sanitary lock. A specimen door complete with the lock can be seen at the Health Office. The special lock is simple and economical and to some extent foolproof. The general provision of these doors complete with locks will do much to expedite the collection service, and incidentally render it unnecessary to climb over yard walls when back doors are bolted, or to herald the approach of the dustmen by loud knockings on back doors, thus interrupting the housewife at her household duties. Refuse collection should be a silent and orderly service. The hearty co-operation of all owners of property is respectfully invited.

Early in April, the Council acquired a Dennis Refuse Freighter. The refuse now being collected entirely by motor. There may be some who, through sentiment, regret the passing of the faithful horse, but when the question of rapidity is being considered, sentiment must be over-ruled. A widely scattered district such as ours, possessing many rural features, required mobile means of refuse collection and removal.

House Refuse Collection.

The refuse is collected from dustbins daily, and weekly, and from ashpits fortnightly and is collected by means of a Karrier Motor Wagon and Dennis Refuse Freighter.

Collection and Disposal of Excreta, Trade Refuse, etc.

	1937	1936
Loads of excreta removed... ..	246	326
(Weekly collection from 236 pails and 12 cesspools monthly)		
Loads of Fish Refuse removed	69	51
Loads of Trade Refuse removed	133	105

The arrangements made some time ago with Accrington Corporation to collect and destroy fish refuse from this district have been cancelled, and we now dispose of this matter by burial at your White Ash Tip in the early morning.

Garbage and trade waste is collected weekly and deposited at the Council's White Ash Tip and satisfactorily covered.

The contents of cesspools and excreta pails are deposited down the sewer manholes at White Ash and Belthorn.

House Refuse Disposal.

The house refuse is disposed of entirely by controlled tipping. The tips are satisfactory and free from nuisance. Tipping is carried out according to the Minister of Health's recommendations, and is an economical method of disposal as compared with "separation and incineration."

The bulk of the house refuse is disposed of at the central tip at White Ash even from certain of the outlying districts such as Blackburn Road and West End, Stanhill, Broadfield and Cross Edge, Redwalls, Hoyle Bottom, Knuzden and Duckworth Hall.

House Refuse Collection.

The following are the costs of house refuse collection and disposal :—

	1937-8	1936-7
	£	£
Wages of Scavengers	686	563
Motor Transport	559	418
Scavenging of Belthorn	60	60
Tools	7	3
Disinfectants	2	1
Trade Refuse	17	12
Fish Refuse	17	15
Printing	5	3
Insurance Premiums	10	10
Wheelwright's and Motor Repairs ...	91	123
Garage	15	6
Sundries... ..	—	12
New Refuse Freighter	568	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2037	£1226
Less Receipts	76	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1961	£1163

House Refuse Disposal.

	£	£
Rent of tips	77	74
Wages	138	138
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£2176	£1375

Number of Houses Scavenged.

1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
55,637	54,975	56,000	66,748	67,349	78,109	80,374
1934	1935	1936	1937			
90,620	104,473	113,251	189,793			

The total number of houses cleansed was 189,793, as against 113,251 during the last year, an increase of 76,542 houses.

	1937-8	1936-7
Number of Dustbins	3433	2753
Number of Ashpits	200	200
Average number of emptyings... ..	26 (ashpits)	52 (bins)
Estimated number of tons removed...	5283	4523
Estimated weight per 1,000 persons ...	406 tons.	335 tons.
Cost per house per cleansing	3·96d.	2·46d.

	1937-38	1936-7
Cost per estimated ton	7/5	5/1
Cost of Collection per 1,000 persons ...	£150/10/2	£86/2/11
Cost of Disposal per 1,000 persons ...	£16/10/9	£15/14/-
Cost per ton (estimated)	9·76d.	11·25d.

Net cost of Collection and Disposal equivalent to rate in pound of 9·6d.

Number of men employed up to 31st March, 1938.

Loaders	5
Motor Drivers	2

Street Cleansing—Main Roads.

Our main roads and streets are swept daily by hand, and, when required, our horse-drawn rotary brush is used. The cleanliness of our roads and streets has been maintained and will bear favourably with those of other industrial Townships (all streets including Blackburn Road (A679), Union Road and New Lane (B6231), and Stanhill Lane (B6234).)

The following shows the mileage of the roads and streets which are cleansed by the Health Department.

Blackburn Road (A679)	1·96 miles
Union Road and New Lane (B6231)...	1·25 „
Stanhill and Stanhill Lane (B6234)	·9 „
Public Streets	6·3 „
	<hr/>
	10·41 „
	<hr/>

EXPENDITURE :—	1937-8	1936-7
	£	£
Wages	378	378
Team Labour	—	6
Gully Cleansing... ..	43	43
Wheelwright's Work and Tools ...	5	5
Insurance	3	3
Printing... ..	1	1
Gritting	7	5
Disinfectants	1	1
A679	250	230
B6231	297	290
B6234		
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£985	£962

Cost per mile £94 12s. 5d.

Net cost equivalent to rate in £ of 4·3d.

	1937-8	1936-7
Number of gullies emptied by Motor ...	2864	2869

Men employed on street cleansing :—

Full time	...	...	...	...	4
Part time	...	...	...	...	2

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge the many kindnesses extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk to the Council, Medical Officer of Health, the Accountant, Surveyor, Gasworks Engineer, my staff, and all others who have assisted me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FISHER,

Mem. Royal Sanitary Institute.

*Associate Member Institution of Sanitary Engineers
(Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods).*

*(Cert. of the Royal San. Inst., Advanced Knowledge
in the work of a Sanitary Inspector).*

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.

